GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3021
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Air India Flight Incident
Udhayakumar Shri M.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air India"s Melbourne-Delhi flight was forced to divert to Singapore recently due to a rat, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the pest controllers were unable to trap the rat for four days;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of such incidents happened during the last one year; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the occurence of such incidents in order to avoid inconvenience caused to the air passengers?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a): Yes, Madam. B787-8 aircraft VT-ANV operating flight AI-309 of 15th April 2016 on sector Melbourne Delhi was diverted to Singapore due to sighting of rat. After carrying out fumigation at Singapore, the aircraft departed for Delhi on 17 th April 2016. Fumigation is a method of pest control that completely fills an area with gaseous pesticides or fumigants, to suffocate or poison the pests within.

(b)&(c):Does not arise.

(d): The details of such incidents happened during the last one year are attached at Annexure-1

(e): Rat menaces are tackled by individual airlines by using:

1) Periodic fumigation for pest/rodent control etc.

2) By conducting Spot-Checks in catering bonded stores.

In addition, the aerodrome operator/owner take actions to eliminate or to prevent the establishment of garbage disposal dumps or any other source which may attract wildlife/rodent to the aerodrome.